

REMARKS

Objection to Claim 7

The objection to claim 7 has been addressed by the amendment presented herein to claim 7.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 102

The examiner relies on Grimm U.S. 4,962,796 to reject claims 1-23 for lack of novelty. The examiner's detailed analysis and reasoning set forth in the action has been carefully considered. While Grimm clearly discloses the use of a brake and damper arrangement on the insertion side of the weaving shed of a weaving loom, the concept of Applicants' invention is quite different from that of Grimm.

In accordance with the present invention, as is clear from the disclosure and drawings, the intention is to clamp an inserted weft thread at the side of the shed opposite the insertion side while deflecting the thread at a location upstream of the clamp to minimize the rebound effects of the yarn. As clearly disclosed in the written description, the problem to be overcome by the invention is to avoid the weft yard snapping back into the shed and creating loops causing defects in the woven cloth. It is respectfully submitted that this concept is not disclosed or suggested in Grimm, which is concerned with braking and damping a weft thread on the weft insertion side of the shed. A person skilled in the art would readily understand that braking and damping the weft thread on the insertion side of the thread would not necessarily prevent snapping back of the weft thread at the far side of the shed, in particular where there is no weft thread clamp disclosed at the far end of the shed. Grimm does not disclose a thread clamp at the far end of the shed, but only a typical funnel and extractor 12, 13 that exerts a suction force on the end of the weft thread upon the thread reaching the far end of the shed. Indeed, Grimm only discloses the use of a funnel and "extractor" that removes the loose end of the weft thread after it has been cut immediately before the beat-up of the weft thread.

The claims of the application have been amended to more clearly define the subject matter for which protection is sought. Accordingly, claim 1 now recites that the

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/539,809
Attorney Docket: BAME3003/JEK

thread clamp is disposed on that side of the weaving shed opposite the insertion side (see page 1, last paragraph and Figure 1) and that the thread clamp and deflecting device are separately actuatable (see page 3, first paragraph; see Figure 1).

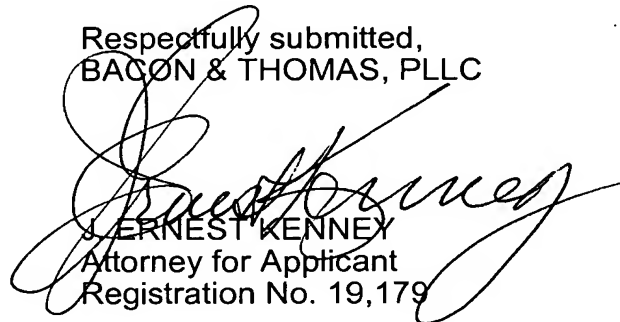
New claim 24 has been introduced to recite that a thread brake is also included on the weft insertion side of the weaving shed in combination with the thread clamp and the deflecting device on the far side of the shed as recited in claim 1 (see Figure 1 and page 4 of the specification).

In addition, new claim 25 has been introduced to recite that the step of maintaining the insertion weft thread in tension by deflection of the weft thread as recited in claim 21 is carried out on the side of the shed opposite the insertion side.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as currently presented fully patentably distinguish the subject matter of this invention over the disclosure of Grimm and that withdrawal of the rejection of the claims is warranted.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and its passage to issue is respectfully requested. In the event that any issue remains that can be resolved by a telephone conference, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC



ERNEST KENNEY
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 19,179

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
Customer **23364** 625 Slaters Lane - 4th Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314-1176
Telephone: (703) 683-0500
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

Date: February 5, 2007